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SOURCE Vatan.MINOR PARTY VIEWS ON PARTY RAPPROCHEMENT IN TURKEY

Comment: Premier Menderes, in a speech at Gaziantep on 18 January, called for better interparty cooperation between the DP (Democrat Party) and the PRP (People's Republican Party) and a greater spirit of mutual cooperation. At a press conference in Ankara on 21 January, Ismet Inonu, PRP president general, accepted Menderes' invitation and pledged that his party would cooperate in the effort to achieve a more developed form of democracy in Turkey.

This report gives the views of the NP (Nation Party) and the Peasants Party toward DP-PRP rapprochement, as reflected in statements to the Ankara Agency, published in 23 January issue of Vatan, by Abdurrahman Boyacigiller, deputy for Zonguldak and secretary general of the NP, and Prof Remzi Oguz Arik, deputy for Seyhan and president general of the Peasants Party.⁷

Nation Party

Interparty relations usually means relations between the DP and PRP. However, there also exist the NP, a major national opposition party, and other active opposition parties. Agreement between the two major parties can in no way be described as a sincere move; at best, it is an agreement which opens the way to peace between two party leaders who have indulged in mutual recriminations.

The quarreling of these two parties has hurt the development of democracy in Turkey, and the NP views this rapprochement as a beneficial event. We must point out, however, that the disinclination of the DP and PRP leaders even to mention the NP and other parties is the best proof that the totalitarian and monopolistic mentality has not been abandoned. We are convinced that if we are to establish democracy in Turkey, it is necessary that the leaders of all political parties, including the NP, meet and reach an agreement on the problems facing the country.

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Like the other two major parties, the NP is always ready to cooperate with other parties to eliminate reaction, totalitarianism, Communism, and the mentality and influence of the antidemocratic laws which hamper the development of Turkish democracy. Long before the other parties, the NP had identified and expelled from its ranks reactionaries, Communists, and those trying to degenerate Turkish democracy; and it is continuing to do so. In this respect, we have always considered national before party interests in actions designed to establish sincerity in interparty relations.

The DP and PRP should abandon their monopolistic attitudes and actions and should adopt a policy of joint action with other parties in the nation's problems and in measures to develop our democracy.

Peasants Party

The statement made by Inonu on behalf of his party constitutes a parallel and positive reply to Menderes' attempt to save interparty relations from an impasse. In this respect a step forward has been made.

However, the PRP leader attached certain conditions which must be met. According to our understanding, it will be difficult for interparty relations to enter the phase we all desire until the antidemocratic laws, the election law, and other similar laws have been changed and until material guarantees have been obtained. I must point out that these conditions, which were advanced in the name of his party by the politically experienced PRP leader, form parts of the program of the Turkish Peasants Party. It pleases me to observe once again the appropriateness of our party's basic principles.

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